

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A paper making, industrial elastic belt (11; 21; 31) formed of an elastic material endlessly in a cylinder and having an inner surface (11b; 21b; 31b) and/or an outer surface (11a; 21a; 31a) thermally pressed and thus smoothed.
2. (Currently Amended) The paper making, industrial elastic belt of claim 1, wherein said inner surface (11b; 21b; 31b) and/or said outer surface (11a; 21a; 31a) have/has a surface roughness of at most 20 μm (Rz).
3. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, comprising the step of thermally pressing an inner surface (11b; 21b; 31b) and/or an outer surface (11a; 21a; 31a) of an elastic belt (11; 21; 31) formed of an elastic material endlessly in a cylinder to smooth said inner surface and/or outer surface.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, of claim 3, wherein the step of thermally pressing employs a hot plate (13a; 13b) having a temperature of 50 to 170°C to press said inner surface (11b) and/or said outer surface (11a) of said elastic belt (11) with a pressure of 0.05 to 10 MPa for 5 seconds to 60 minutes.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, of claim 3, wherein in the step of thermally pressing, said elastic belt (21; 31) is run at a rate of 0.1 to 10 m/min., while a roll (22a; 22b; 24; 34a; 34b) having a temperature of 50 to 170°C is used to nip said elastic belt's inner surface (21b; 31b) and/or outer surface (21a; 31a) with a pressure of 0.5 to 200 kN/m.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial elastic belt, of claim 3, wherein the step of thermally pressing allows said elastic belt (11; 21; 31) to have said inner surface (11b; 21b; 31b) and/or said outer surface (11a; 21a; 31a) with a surface roughness of at most 20 μm (Rz).

7. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial belt, of claim 3, wherein the step of thermally pressing is performed after said elastic belt (11; 21; 31) has a surface polished.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of producing a papermaking, industrial belt, of claim 3, wherein in the step of thermally pressing, said elastic belt (11; 21; 31) is partially, thermally pressed and then rotated to be moved and then has a thermally unpressed portion thereof thermally pressed.